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Eric Erickson, Wartime Spy

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STOCKHOLM, Jan. 24 (AP) — Eric Erickson, a Swedish businessman who worked for American intelligence during World War II, has died at the age of 92, family members announced today.

Mr. Erickson, an oil expert with international business contacts, visited Nazi Germany repeatedly during the war, gathering information about synthetic oil plants.

In 1958, Alexander Klein published a book about Mr. Erickson called "The Counterfeit Traitor." The book was made into a film in 1962, with William Holden in the leading role.

Mr. Erickson was born in 1890 in the United States, the son of Swedish immigrants. During World War I he fought with the United States Army and at the age of 21 he started working in the oil fields in Texas. In 1924 he came to Sweden to start his own oil company, and became a Swedish citizen in the mid-1930's.

At the outbreak of the war, in which Sweden remained neutral, he offered the United States his services. Pretending that he was a Nazi, Mr. Erickson was accepted in Germany and visited there more than 30 times between 1939 and 1945.

He made friends with Hermann Göring, one of the Nazi leaders, who in turn introduced him to Heinrich Himmler, another member of the leadership, who gave Mr. Erickson the right to travel to study the production of synthetic oil. The information was then passed on to the Americans and was used in planning bombing raids.

The Swede played his role so well that

he lost almost all his friends and was blacklisted by the Allies. But immediately after the war, he was honored by being invited to meet President Harry S. Truman.

Mr. Erickson lived in Menton on the French Mediterranean coast during the last years of his life.